

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



March 24, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Two Apache pilots missing; progress against Baghdad 'rapid'

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 24, 2003 — Two American Apache helicopter crewmen are missing in action as coalition forces continue to pound Iraqi Republican Guard units ringing Baghdad, Army Gen. Tommy Franks said today in Qatar.

Franks, the combined forces commander, said coalition forces are operating throughout Iraq and that "progress toward our objectives has been rapid and in some cases dramatic."

News reports said that the British also have personnel missing in action. Franks would not comment.

"I won't talk about the Brit potential missing troops any more than I would talk about the specifics of our helicopter pilots or of the youngsters in this maintenance company," he said. "I will say, and I've seen speculation in a number of places, that a coalition like this would take action, where action is appropriate, to secure the release of people who are taken prisoners."

He said fighting in rear areas now is the result of a conscious decision. "We have intentionally bypassed enemy formations, to include paramilitary and the Fedayeen," he said. Franks said he expects clean-up operations to continue for several days.

The Fedayeen — irregular Iraqi troops — may create difficulties for coalition forces. "I can assure you that contact with those forces is not unexpected," Franks said.

Brig Gen. Vince Brooks, the deputy operations chief at U.S. Central Command, spoke about the contributions special operations forces are making to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He said U.S., British and Australian special operations personnel continue to conduct numerous missions throughout Iraq.

"They are actively hunting for weapons of mass destruction and also looking for ballistic missile systems," Brooks said. "And they are on track, and they are doing exactly what they need to be doing at this point."

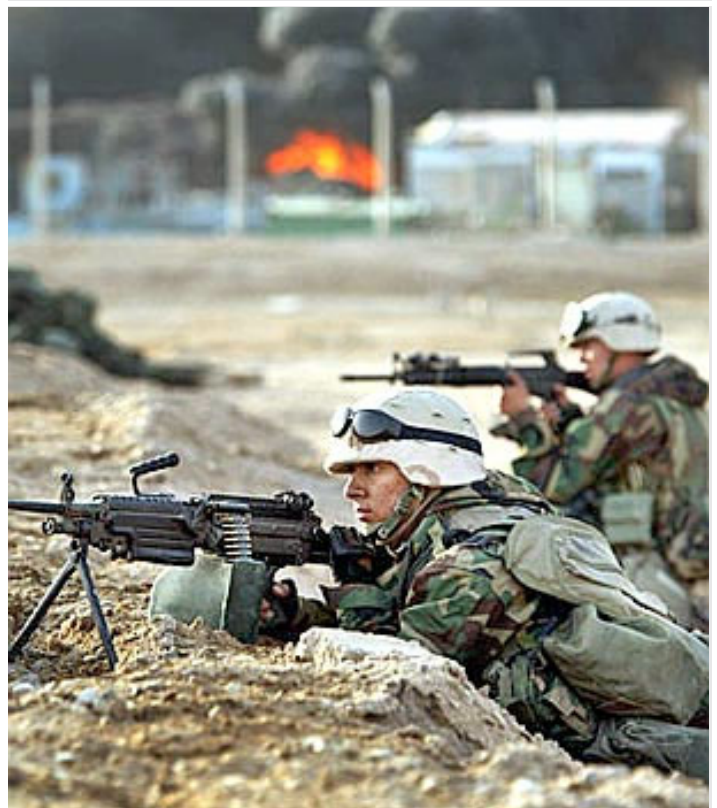
Brooks said the land component continues to expand its territory in Iraq. This includes continuing the advance beyond An Nasiriyah and an aviation attack against Republican Guard forces near

Baghdad. It was during that attack that the Apache attack helicopter was downed. "All the other helicopters involved in the mission did accomplish the mission and returned safely to base," he said.

Ground units also secured Basra Airport, all of the Rumailah oil field and an ammunition storage area near An Najaf, Brooks said.

Journalists embedded with the unit that took An Najaf reported that there might be chemical weapons at the site. Franks could not confirm this.

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Soldiers of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Unit take up firing positions yesterday at Az Zubayar, in southern Iraq. Coalition soldiers met yesterday with the stiffest resistance of the Iraq war. (AP photo)

U.S. questions Iraqi generals on weapons

by Matt Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) - American forces in Iraq are chasing down leads from captured Iraqis and documents on possible chemical and biological weapons sites, but as of Monday had not confirmed the presence of any weapons of mass destruction, a senior administration official said.

A suspicious plant captured by American troops was still being evaluated, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Qatar, Gen. Tommy Franks said, "It would not surprise me if there were chemicals in the plant and it would not surprise me if there weren't."

Franks, the U.S. commander, said Monday that some sites suspected of containing weapons of mass destruction are in American control while others are not. "It's a bit early for us to have an expectation of having found" these weapons, he said.

U.S. officials are questioning two captured Iraqi generals about chemical and biological weapons, an American commander in the region said Sunday. The military also is following up on a cache of documents found by commandos in western Iraq, the Pentagon's top general said.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees the war in Iraq, said in a statement that troops were examining several "sites of interest," but that it was premature to call the plant in Najaf a chemical weapons factory.

Finding deadly chemical or biological weapons would be a coup for the United States, which says its invasion of Iraq is meant to rid Iraq of such weapons.

International opposition to the war, led by France and Germany, has focused on the view that United Nations inspectors should have been given more time to verify Iraq's claims to be free of weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq claims it destroyed all of its chemical and biological weapons and ended its nuclear weapons program shortly after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. U.N. weapons inspectors say those claims are highly suspect - and the United States says they are blatant lies.

American special operations forces found documents in western Iraq that could lead to banned weapons facilities, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Sunday.

Myers said U.S. commandos found the papers along with a cache of millions of rounds of ammunition after a firefight Saturday, and the discovery "might save thousands of lives if we can find out exactly where and what they have."

"I just know that they have some papers that they want to exploit as quickly as possible, and we're going to do that, of course," Myers said.

U.S. Army troops on Sunday secured a 100-acre site in Najaf that could be a chemicals factory that may have made chemical weapons, U.S. officials said. The find, first reported by a journalist from the Jerusalem Post traveling with the Army, could be the first hard evidence of chemical weapons discovered during the war.

U.N. weapons inspectors are not aware of any large-scale chemical sites that could be used to make chemical weapons in Najaf, said Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the inspectors. However, there are many such dual-use sites elsewhere in the country because of Iraq's petrochemical industry.

The inspectors visited a cement plant in the Najaf area earlier this year to check on its explosives cache but did not report finding anything improper. A team of biological weapons inspectors also visited a university and school in Kufa, a few miles north of Najaf.

Asked at a news conference in Qatar on Sunday about reports of the chemical plant, Lt. Gen. John Abizaid of U.S. Central Command declined comment. He said top Iraqi officers have been questioned about chemical weapons.

"We have an Iraqi general officer, two Iraqi general officers that we

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Scots Dragoon Guards are on the move after a long night of fighting in Southern Iraq, Monday March 24, 2003. (AP Photo/Tony Nicoletti, Pool)

Six airmen die in Afghan mercy mission crash; Valiant Strike continues

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 24, 2003 — An Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crashed near Ghazni, Afghanistan, March 23, killing all aboard, said Combined Joint Task Force-180 officials in Bagram.

Six Air Force personnel died in the crash, task force spokesman Army Col. Roger King said. Names of the dead are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. Enemy fire was not a factor in the crash, officials said.

The helicopter crew was on its way to evacuate two Afghan children for medical treatment in the U.S. facilities in Bagram, King said. One child has a head injury; the other, an eye injury. Both children arrived safely in Bagram today, he said.

In a separate incident, U.S. Special Forces soldiers came under attack from a group of 10 to 20 enemy personnel March 23 near Gardez. Apache helicopters from Coalition Task Force 82 provided close-air support. There were no coalition casualties, King said, and soldiers suspect they killed at least one enemy fighter.

Operation Valiant Strike continues in the Sami Ghar Mountains east of Kandahar. Roughly 600 coalition forces are searching villages and cave complexes for al Qaeda and remnant Taliban fighters, intelligence and equipment.

Soldiers found a large cache of weapons inside a walled compound in the village of Sekangarkay. The cache included rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, launchers, rifles, heavy machine guns and ammunition.

12 Americans missing following ambush

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 23, 2003 – Twelve American soldiers are unaccounted for following actions around the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, U.S. Central Command officials said today.

Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, deputy commander, Combined Forces Command, said irregular Iraqi forces ambushed a U.S. Army supply convoy. Abizaid spoke to the press at the Qatar headquarters of the coalition partner command, which like its CENTCOM American component, is commanded by Army Gen. Tommy Franks.

The six-truck convoy took a wrong turn, Abizaid said. Four Americans were wounded and 12 are missing.

“Subsequently Iraqi regime officials displayed captured Americans on state television,” the general said. “This is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention.”

Army Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks, CENTCOM deputy operations officer, said U.S. officials believe the 12 to be in the custody of the irregular forces that conducted the ambush. “Their status is not known,” he said.

Nasiriyah was the site of the sharpest engagement so far in the war

to disarm Saddam Hussein. It is a strategic city on the Euphrates River. Marine Corps units had captured a bridge intact over the river.

Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force moved through the area following the attack and were able to extract other wounded members of the unit.

During the press conference, Abizaid took the al Jazeera satellite network to task for retransmitting the Iraqi images. “You’re from al Jazeera television and I’m very disappointed that you would betray ... our service members, and I would ask others not to do that,” Abizaid said.

American networks have honored that request, officials said, and have not run the tape.

Defense officials issued a press advisory requesting that news outlets not air or publish “recognizable images or audio recordings that identify” prisoners of war or deceased service members until next of kin are notified.

Officials also asked news organizations to hold the names – first and last – of service members and their units until next-of-kin notification.

U.S. questions Iraqi generals on weapons continued

have taken prisoner, and they are providing us with information,” Abizaid said.

American officials are focusing on the most senior officers among the more than 2,000 captured Iraqi troops in the hunt for chemical and biological weapons. Most of the Iraqi captives are mere foot soldiers who would not know anything about the banned weapons - making the two generals probably the most valuable prisoners in U.S. custody.

Any Iraqis seized in the raids that yielded the documents Myers discussed also would be important prisoners, said Daniel Goure, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, a Washington-area think tank.

Finding weapons of mass destruction could take a long time, military officials said, since Iraq probably worked hard to hide them.

“You shouldn’t think it’s going to happen tomorrow,” Abizaid said.

Iraqi freedom coalition readies humanitarian aid

by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Portman, USMC, Special to American Forces Press Service

CAMPAS SAYLIYAH, Qatar, March 23, 2003—The U.S.-led coalition to disarm the Iraqi regime is poised to open massive channels of humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people.

Millions of meals, medicines and other supplies for the Iraqi people are pre-positioned and ready for distribution, said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, CENTCOM deputy operations officer, at a press briefing here March 22.

“Our humanitarian work in Iraq is beginning,” Brooks said. “We are already preparing to push (the rations) forward as they are required.” He showed a video of a warehouse stocked full of humanitarian daily rations.

British Royal Marine Lt. Col. Jamie Marton said the strategic Umm Qasr port in southern Iraq, already secured by U.S. and British Marines, will ensure the continued flow of food and humanitarian supplies into Iraq.

“We are working with the international community to get humanitarian aid where it is needed most,” Marton said.

Initially, officials said coalition forces will manage and operate the Umm Qasr port with Iraqi civil laborers. The coalition plans to move humanitarian aid with the U.S. Agency for International Development and other non- governmental agencies such as the U.N. World Food

Program.

“WFP is gearing up for potentially the largest humanitarian operation in its history,” said agency spokesperson Khaled Mansour at a March 21 press briefing in Amman, Jordan.

“With the majority of the Iraqi population set to run out of food in less than six weeks, the cost of covering their basic food needs could amount to over 1 billion U.S. dollars.”

To date, WFP has received about \$44 million from various donors, including \$40 million from the United States. “This has allowed the agency to secure sufficient food to cover the needs of 2 million people for one month,” Mansour said.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said one of his military objectives is “to end sanctions and to immediately deliver humanitarian support to the displaced, and to many needy Iraqi citizens.”

(Gunnery Sgt. Charles Portman is assigned to U.S. Central Command.)



U.S. INFANTRY IN IRAQ—A Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle crew with the 24th Infantry Division from Ft. Riley, Kan., takes a break in Central Iraq. The crew is part of the land force that has moved in 32 hours what it did in 96 hours 12 yrs ago U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class David K. Dismukes



SKY WATCHER— Pvt. Lester Mena, stinger Avenger crewmember, Battery D, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, scans the skies of Kuwait in search of possible air threats. U.S. Army photo by Capt. Enrique T. Vasquez

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Two Apache pilots missing; progress against Baghdad 'rapid' continued

He said the coalition is concerned about taking down Saddam Hussein's regime and about ridding the nation of weapons of mass destruction. "It's a bit early for us to have an expectation of having found them," he said.

The search for the weapons is called "sensitive site exploitation," Franks explained. "We will do some sensitive site exploitation as we go along, and we'll do other sensitive site exploitation a bit later in the campaign," he said.

Franks also spoke about possible Iraqi use of weapons of mass destruction. "There is a school of thought that says as the compression becomes tighter and tighter and tighter, the pressure will be greater and greater to use these weapons," he said. "We don't know whether the regime will use these weapons." His advice to the Iraqi soldiers who would actually fire the weapons is: "Don't do it."

He said the maritime component of the command is clearing the waterway leading to the port city of Umm Qasr. There are ships full of humanitarian supplies waiting in the Persian Gulf. The main beneficiary right now will be the people of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, who will "have more access to food and more access to water than they have had in decades."



General Tommy Franks, Commander of U.S. Central Command addresses members of the media during a news conference in the Coalition Media Center, at Camp As Sayliyah, in Doha, Qatar, Monday, March 24, 2003. Franks spoke about progress in the war on Iraq. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)



PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE — An U.S. Army soldier from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery performs preventive maintenance checks and services on his team's 105mm Howitzer on March 21 at Champion Main, Kuwait. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kyran V. Adams



An Iraqi soldier fires his AK47 during a search operation through sugar cane ingrowth along the banks of the Tigris river in Baghdad, Sunday, March 23, 2003, following reports that a U.S. aircraft was allegedly downed and that the pilot parachuted into the river. U.S. and British officials said they have no information about any downed plane. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

U.S., South Korean troops ‘take the beachhead’ in drill

Story and photos by Frankline Fisher, Stars and Stripes

POHANG, South Korea – A section of South Korea was in enemy hands.

A combined U.S.-South Korean Marine landing force had to take and hold a stretch of coastline, which would open the door to a larger ground thrust inland against the enemy.

U.S. and South Korean Marines were off the coast at Toksok-ri Beach, a narrow strip about 18 miles north of Pohang. Landmines awaited the troops on portions of the beach, a lethal welcome.

If this land was to be retaken — without needless casualties — coordination was key.

Armored landing craft, called AAVs, clambered onto the beach while fighter jets flew cover overhead.

Waves of helicopters beat toward the land as the AAVs disgorged battle-decked Marines who would pound onto the beach, scrambling into fighting positions on the wet sand.

And as successive assault waves landed, those first ones ashore would push forward, trying to take more ground.

This was an exercise, a rehearsal Friday of beach assault methods the Navy and Marines would have to use in wartime. It was part of the RSOI/Foal Eagle exercise.

It also, said Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Caldwell, a U.S. Forces Korea spokesman, “is how the Marines fight. They’ve got to come ashore, take the beachhead, secure it, then start moving farther forward, in order to push the enemy back.

“It’s another technique that’s used in the overall war scenario when you’re fighting to retake the land,” Caldwell said. “It’s important to do this because ... you’ve got to work out all the timing with the vessels, the aircraft ... all the coordination you have to have.”

Amid the deep roar of fighter jets streaking overhead, successive waves of landing craft launched from naval vessels, mute gray silhouettes lying offshore against a blank, pale horizon.

On Friday, most of the assault craft launched from the USS Juneau, part of an offshore naval amphibious force whose vessels included, among others, the USS Essex. Helicopters, also launching in successive waves, beat their way towards land.

In the waters below were the AAVs, each breaking a crest of foam as it plowed low through the water toward shore. As they drew closer to land, each AAV released a screen of thick white smoke meant to afford some concealment.

To simulate enemy landmines that might await attacking Marines, the U.S. Navy set off a line of explosives near the water’s edge. Each erupted in a ball of bright orange flame, sending a black smoke ring curling aloft.



U.S. Marines await word to push inland on Friday during an amphibious landing exercise off Pohang, South Korea. Leathernecks made the beach assault along with their South Korean Marine counterparts.

Having reached land, the AAVs rose from the surf, clanked onto the rocky beach, and rumbled to a halt. Marines in heavy packs dashed out and took up fighting positions on the wet sands, then, as further assault waves landed, began moving farther forward.

The exercise schedule called for the Marines to repeat the beach assault Saturday. Marine 1st Sgt. Ramon Diaz was one of nine Marines who came ashore in an AAV and set up mortars that in actual battle would provide some of the supporting fire for troops trying to push inland against the enemy. They were from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, part of the 1st Marine Division.

“They sharpen up on their raid skills — amphibious raids,” Diaz said of his Marines, some of whom had lined up several 60 mm mortars along a rocky strip of beach only yards from where the surf was washing in with a low, steady rumble.

The landings were a chance for Marines such as Cpl. Eric Ettinger to get more practice in adapting immediately to the demands of varied terrain.

“One of the challenging parts would be finding out a good place to set the guns in ... with good cover,” said Ettinger, a 60 mm mortarman-gunner.

“It’s hard to find a position for mortars because the base plates have to be sunk. ... We’d have trouble with this kind of terrain,” he said, looking down at the hundreds of small rocks along their section of

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Army activates Family Assistance Hotline

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) — The U.S. Army has established a toll-free Family Assistance Hotline for Operation Iraqi Freedom at (800) 833-6622.

The hotline was established by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, in conjunction with the Army Family Liaison Office staff to provide referrals and information to the families of deployed or activated soldiers.

The hotline is toll free when called from the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The hotline staff will answer calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Eastern Standard Time to answer family support-related questions. Emergency assistance will be provided between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. EST, officials said.

“Our staff will assist all callers by listening, explaining, and directing them to the most helpful resources we can,” said Gail Lovisone, manager of CFSC’s Family Assistance Hotline call center.

Lovisone emphasized that the first place families of active-duty soldiers should contact is Army Community Service or the unit rear detachment at the installation from which the soldiers deployed.

“The mission of our Family Assistance Hotline is to provide Army families caring support in the form of accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to family issues,” said Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, commander of the USACFSC, the Army agency responsible for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

“This Family Assistance Hotline is a ‘safety net’ for those who have exhausted all other resources,” said Decker. “We will do everything we can to help each and every caller.”

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

U.S., South Korean troops ‘take the beachhead’ in drill continued

beach. “I’d probably want to reinforce the baseplate with sandbags. That way it doesn’t sink so far.”

But until the word came, the troops stood by their weapons.

Said Diaz, “They’re just watchin’ and waitin’ right now for a fire mission. As the assault element comes through, they’ll get the command to move up.”

South Korean Marines storm ashore after exiting an amphibious landing vehicle during a beach assault exercise off Pohang, South Korea.

After hearing a short, recorded message, callers will be able to speak to hotline staff members who have access to extensive reference materials. Staff will be unable to answer questions about casualties or soldiers wounded or missing in action.

Because of the sensitivity of this information, the Army’s Casualty Assistance Office will first contact the soldier’s immediate family. Once the Army is certain that the soldier’s next of kin have been notified, information about soldiers’ deaths will then be released to the public through news releases and other means such as the media and Department of Defense Web sites.

Due to operational security and force protection concerns, CFSC hotline staff cannot provide locator services (addresses) for soldiers or units, or information about operational matters.

The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve state and regional support commands also operate assistance lines, though they may not always be toll free. Information is also available at www.guardfamily.org and www.army.mil/usar.

“We may often refer callers to the installation because installation ACS staff have local resource telephone numbers, and more detailed information,” explained Lovisone.

In addition to local and Army-level assistance via telephone, family members can find answers to many routine questions about family readiness, Army Community Service, and deployment support resources online at the ACS Web site, www.goacs.org, and at the Army Family Liaison Office website, www.aflo.org.

“We anticipate a high volume of calls, so we strongly urge people to use those Web sites as a first stop,” noted Lovisone. Recognizing that not all households have Internet connectivity, Lovisone suggested families use computers at installation ACS centers or at on-post or local civilian libraries.

www.goarmy.com



Pentagon, March 20, 2003—On Monday night, President George W. Bush, our Commander in Chief delivered an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein: to leave Iraq within 48 hours. Refusal to do so will result in military conflict. In rejecting the President's ultimatum, the Iraqi regime has chosen war over peaceful disarmament. Saddam Hussein's regime will be now



removed from power — and the Iraqi people will be liberated.

You are the men and women who will deliver on the President's pledge. As you and coalition forces fulfill the mission you've been assigned, know that you will carry the

thoughts and prayers of the American people with you into battle.

We fully recognize that lives are at stake — American, coalition, and Iraqi; military and civilian. War is a last resort, to be undertaken only after every other alternative has been tried.

For twelve years, the international community sought to disarm Iraq peacefully. We have tried economic sanctions, inspections, and diplomacy — all have failed. The Iraqi regime repeatedly refused to disarm.

As the President said, the Iraqi regime is a grave and gathering danger. With each passing day, Saddam Hussein advances his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, and could pass them along to terrorists. If he is allowed to do so, the result could be the deaths not of 3,000 people, as on September 11th, but 30,000 or 300,000 or more innocent people.

Our responsibility — your mission — is to prevent that from happening and eliminate the Iraqi regime as a threat.

You are the best trained, strongest, and most capable military in the world. We have full confidence in your ability, your courage and your dedication to our country.

As you embark on this mission, know that you are not alone. Our coalition includes dozens of countries that are helping in a variety of different ways. You will fight alongside the forces of such stalwart friends as Australia, Great Britain and many others.

You may face great challenges and dangers. Wars have their surprises.

The most difficult step a President can make is the decision to send the Armed Forces of our nation into battle.

When I returned to the Pentagon after serving here a quarter century ago, I wrote a series of guidelines to help guide my thinking regarding the use of force. They included these questions:

- Is there a good reason to go to war?
- Have we engaged all instruments of national power in search of a peaceful solution?
- Is the objective achievable?
- Have we set forth clear goals?
- Does the objective merit risking American lives?
- Have we made available all the resources and military capabilities needed to achieve victory?
- Have we invested the effort and political capital to explain the need for action and to marshal and sustain public support?



The Army's Charlie Company, 2/7 Infantry soldiers guard an Enemy Prisoner of War officer away from other Iraqi captured soldiers near Iraqi bunkers full of munitions and weapons at the top of an escarpment. Vehicles seen below are the rest of the 369th Task Force moving north up the escarpment. Moments after this picture was taken, Iraqi artillery rained down on the overlook and a battle further north began. Photo by Jack Gruber, USA Today

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Fedayeen enforces loyalty among Iraq army

by Salah Nasrawi

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Saddam Hussein's most trusted paramilitary militia, Saddam's Fedayeen, has assassinated the Iraqi leader's enemies, put down protests and ruthlessly cracked down on dissidents since its founding in 1995.

Now, with U.S.-led coalition troops advancing toward Baghdad, the Fedayeen - whose name means "those ready to sacrifice themselves for Saddam" - are showing putting up stiff resistance and trying to prevent regular army soldiers from surrendering.

Reports from the front suggest members of the Fedayeen may have organized battlefield ruses, like posing as civilians or faking surrender, to draw U.S. and British forces into traps. Such scenes played out in An Nasiriyah and Umm Qasr, where the advancing troops suffered their first major casualties.

U.S. intelligence believes the Fedayeen were dispatched from their strongholds in the Baghdad area to outlying areas over the last few weeks.

The guerrillas were formed to quash internal dissent and disturbances after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War, especially in the oppressed Shiite Muslim areas in central and southern Iraq. The first recruits - all extremely loyal to the ruling Baath party - included criminals who were pardoned in exchange for serving in the units.

Analysts estimate the force could number up to 40,000, broken into brigades of 3,000 each. Their training includes urban warfare



- Have we been honest — with ourselves and with the world — about the risks of action, but also about the less obvious risks of inaction?

The President has made the case for Iraq clear. He has set forth what is at stake, and invested the diplomatic and political effort needed to exhaust all options short of war. We are at the point at which the risk of not acting is too great to wait longer. The answers are clear. It is essential to world peace and our security that we act against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

As you prepare — know that this war is necessary, it is just, and that you have the resources and commitment you need to achieve victory. You have the strong support of your Commander in Chief, of the Congress and of the American people.

I thank you for all you do for our country. May God bless you, and keep you, and guide you in the days ahead.

and suicide missions. One of their endurance drills is to survive on snakes and dog meat.

They dress in black uniforms and cover their faces with black scarves to instill fear, although they have also been known to operate in civilian clothes.

Ail Abdel Amir, an Iraqi journalist operating in neighboring Jordan, said Saddam trusts the force even more than his elite Republican Guard.

"They have blind loyalty, they might even kill their fathers if they are ordered to do so," he told The Associated Press from Amman.

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A Marine from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force stands guard at a burning oil well at the Rumeila Oil fields Sunday. Several oil wells have been set ablaze by retreating Iraqi troops in the Rumeila area, the second largest offshore oil field in the country, near the Kuwaiti border AP Photo

Thousands gather to back U.S. troops and policy

by Douglas Jehl, The New York Times

GLEN ALLEN, Va., March 23 — These demonstrators wore shorts and ball caps, pushed strollers and carried American flags, but what most set them apart was the support they displayed by the thousands today at a suburban office park for the American-led war in Iraq.

The rally here, just north of Richmond, was one of many events around the country supporting the military on this first weekend of the war. It was meant as a show of support for United States policy and troops, and it was meant as an angry protest against the antiwar sentiment that has been more visible elsewhere, particularly in large cities.

“Don’t let these peace protesters confuse you,” Glenn Beck, a conservative radio host from Philadelphia, told the crowd estimated at 10,000 here today. “We know we’re facing dark and terrible, terrifying times. But I tell you, we will look these times dead in the eye, and we will climb these stairs.”

Over the last few weeks, Mr. Beck, whose three-hour program is heard five days a week on more than 100 stations, has helped promote many similar demonstrations under the banner of Rally for America. Some have been financed by radio stations owned by his employer, Clear Channel Communications, the nation’s largest owner of radio stations, in an arrangement that has been criticized by those who contend that media companies should not engage in political advocacy.

The rally near Richmond was paid for by WRVA, a local radio station that broadcasts Mr. Beck’s program. Executives at WRVA, which is owned by Clear Channel, said they had decided to stage the event in response to calls from listeners, who in turn had been exhorted by Mr. Beck to seek venues for such rallies.

“What are we advocating?” asked Randall Bloomquist, the station’s operations manager. “We’re advocating love of America, support for our troops overseas and defending our homeland. We have no compunction about any of that.”

And judging from the comments of flag-waving veterans, husbands, wives, children and even members of a barbershop chorus, there was no shortage of people who share Mr. Bloomquist’s sentiments.

“What brought me here was seeing all the war protesters on TV,” said R. C. Witt, 54, an electrician from Gloucester, Va., who served in the Marine Corps for two years and who drove 50 miles to the rally. “It’s got to be disheartening for our troops over there, and it’s got to be disheartening for the president.

“I’d expect it in places like France,” Mr. Witt said. “But in New York and places like that, right here, it’s embarrassing.”

Polls taken since the fighting began late on Wednesday have shown that a substantial majority of Americans now support the war. But on American streets, support has tended to be overshadowed by opposition, including the more than 100,000 people who marched in Manhattan on Saturday.

In response, Mr. Beck, 39, has been promoting Rally for America events on his Web site. This weekend alone, he also appeared at rallies in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Duluth, Minn., and others were held in Memphis, Charleston, S.C., Jefferson City, Mo., Sacramento and Washington.

Mr. Beck said his expenses and those of his staff were being paid by his immediate employer, Premiere Radio Networks Inc., a subsidiary

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Fedayeen enforces loyalty among Iraq army continued

Fedayeen members receive monthly salaries of up to \$100, compared to the \$3 government employees are paid each month. They receive plots of land and other privileges, such as extra food rations and free medical care.

The Fedayeen report directly to Saddam’s eldest son, Odai, a powerful figure in Iraq with a reputation for extravagance and violence.

In 1998, Fedayeen members swept the Shiite city of Karbala looking for would-be assassins of Izzat Ibrahim, Saddam’s deputy on the Revolution Command Council, Iraq’s highest executive body. Ibrahim survived the assassination attempt, but hundreds of people were arrested in the sweeps.

In 1999, the Fedayeen were responsible for a crackdown on Shiites in a Baghdad suburb who were protesting the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr, a leading Iraqi Shiite cleric, and his two sons in the Iraqi holy city of

Najaf. Dozens of people were killed in the operation.

This month, Al Zawra, a weekly newspaper owned by Odai, reported that Fedayeen units were sent to the southern town of Al-Majar to crush a protest by villagers. They reportedly destroyed three houses and took the families into custody.

Earlier this month, U.S. officials claimed Fedayeen members were acquiring military uniforms “identical down to the last detail” to those worn by American and British forces and planned to use them to shift blame for atrocities.

Middle East military analysts, however, say the force is too poorly equipped to match the U.S. troops.

“They are a little nuisance that can make some trouble, but not hinder the advance of the troops,” said Mohammed Qadri Saeed, a military analyst at the Cairo-based AlAhram Center for Strategic Studies.

Baghdad shakes from explosions after brief respite

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - At least four explosions shook Baghdad on Monday evening as warplanes roared overhead.

The latest raid came after a lull of about three hours. It was at least the fourth raid of the day and came this time without air raid sirens as a warning and without anti-aircraft fire. The targets were unclear.

"It's been getting into a pattern of every few hours since yesterday, but it gets heavier and more frequent into the night," Reuters correspondent Nadim Ladki said.

Baghdad has been rocked by repeated waves of cruise missile strikes and bombings since the start of a U.S.-led war to oust President Saddam Hussein on Thursday.

U.S. Patriots shoot down Iraqi missile over Kuwait

KUWAIT (Reuters) - A U.S. Patriot battery shot down an incoming Iraqi missile fired at U.S. and British forces in Kuwait on Monday, American and Kuwaiti officials said.

"Two bright orange flashes were seen over Kuwait as the engaging Patriot missile destroyed the Iraqi tactical ballistic missile. It is unknown at this time what type of munitions the Iraqi missile was carrying," a U.S. military statement said.

Kuwaiti defense ministry spokesman Colonel Ahmed al-Mulla said: "There was a real target entering Kuwaiti airspace, a missile, and air defenses launched a Patriot at the target, destroying it, in the north of the country."

Several missiles have been fired at Kuwait since the war began on Thursday, and air-raid sirens have frequently sounded in Kuwait City.

Kuwaiti officials have said some of the missiles were banned Scud missiles. But U.S. and British officials say they do not think the missiles were Scuds.



Smoke and fire are seen from fresh explosions that rocked Baghdad shortly before midnight on March 22, 2003 as large parts of the capital were plunged into darkness, a Reuters witness said. In three days of aerial bombardment by U.S. and British forces, power supplies had previously remained unscathed. Reuters photo.



A British Royal Air Force Harrier GR7 takes off past a battery of U.S. patriot missiles at its base in Kuwait March 23, 2003. A U.S. Patriot battery shot down an incoming Iraqi missile fired at U.S. and British forces in Kuwait on March 24, American and Kuwaiti officials said. "Two bright orange flashes were seen over Kuwait as the engaging Patriot missile destroyed the Iraqi tactical ballistic missile. It is unknown at this time what type of munitions the Iraqi missile was carrying," a U.S. military statement said. Reuters photo.

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Saddam in 'full control, ' Aziz says

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on Monday that the Iraqi leadership was "in good shape," and President Saddam Hussein was "in full control of the army and the country."

His comments, made at a news conference in the capital, were aimed at ending intense speculation in the West as to the Iraqi leader's health and whereabouts since U.S. and British warplanes and missiles began bombarding Baghdad last Thursday.

"All members of the Iraqi leadership, with the exception of one martyr who died in a battle at Najaf, are alive and in good shape, and each and every one is working efficiently," he said.

The Iraqi authorities said on Sunday that the local Najaf leader of the ruling Baath party had been killed in fighting near the town.

Iraqi state television twice aired footage of Saddam on Monday — making a televised speech to the nation and meeting officials with his younger son Qusay. In both clips, Saddam looked relaxed.

Since the aerial assault on the capital began, there have been some reports that Saddam may have been killed. Others said he was so badly wounded he had to receive a blood transfusion.

War won't delay NATO enlargement says NATO chief

TALLINN, Estonia (Reuters) - NATO's enlargement will not be delayed by the U.S.-led war in Iraq, NATO chief George Robertson said on Monday, soothing concerns among seven former communist East European candidates.

"The crisis in Iraq is no threat to the timeline of your accession to NATO," Secretary-General Robertson told a news conference in Estonia, among the seven expected to join NATO in May 2004 after invitations late last year.

Asked how the Western defense alliance would change by the expansion to 26 from 19 members, Robertson said: "There will not be any big differences compared to today, but we will have to listen to more speeches."

Robertson declined any specific comment on the U.S.-led campaign

Poland admits Iraq combat role after news photos

WARSAW (Reuters) - Poland admitted on Monday that its elite GROM commando unit had taken part in the U.S.-led attack on Iraq after the soldiers posed for a Reuters news photographer.

The Defense Ministry had denied that GROM (Thunder) special forces were involved in combat, but on Monday it confirmed their participation after dailies splashed photographs of the soldiers in the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, where U.S.-led troops are battling pockets of Iraqi resistance.

Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski refused, however, to divulge details of the troops' role in supporting the main U.S.-British force

Asked about U.S. and British officials' comments saying their forces would be advancing soon on Baghdad, Aziz said they would receive the same kind of defense and defiance they had met in southern Iraq.

"They will be welcomed (in Baghdad) in the same way they were welcomed in Umm Qasr, Faw and Nassiriya and by the Iraqi peasants who brought down the Apache (helicopter)," he said, referring to battles in southern Iraq where local troops have put up tougher resistance than many in the West had expected.

"We will receive them with the best music they have ever heard and with the finest flowers they have ever known," Aziz added, pointedly referring to U.S. comments that Iraqis would welcome U.S.-led troops "with music and flowers."

"We do not have candies to offer. We are just offering them bullets," he said.

Aziz also dismissed reports that U.S.-led forces advancing into Iraq had found a potential chemical weapons plant near Najaf.

"This factory was visited by (U.N. weapons) inspectors. It's just a small and isolated factory used for civilian purposes," Aziz said.

to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and disarm Iraq of its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

"We are not involved in the current conflict although some of our members are involved," he said.

"As in any democracy, there are differences of opinion inside the alliance," he said, adding: "Everybody agrees Saddam needs to be disarmed but some disagree about how to go about it."

Robertson said NATO was closely monitoring the developments of the military campaign to oust Saddam, keeping in contact with the United States and Britain which have deployed some 280,000 troops to the Gulf.

fighting to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We are determined not to comment on secret operations," Szmajdzinski told reporters, saying only that GROM troops were operating "in the coastal region" of Iraq and in Gulf waters.

"You don't comment about the theater of operations because that would give away information about our capability...this is secret," he added.

DoD hosts Women's History Month observance at Women's Memorial

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., March 21, 2003 — Since the Revolutionary War, women's military participation has evolved from exclusion, to traditional jobs such as clerical and nurses, and to nontraditional occupations such as fighter pilot or astronaut, according to Charles S. Abell.

Using military aviation to illustrate the Women History Month theme of "Women Pioneering the Future," Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, pointed out that aircraft didn't become a significant military factor until World War I.

"From the very beginning women were excluded from aviation positions and that status didn't change until World War II," he told the smaller than expected audience at the Department of Defense Women's History Month observance here at the Women's Memorial.

Abell hosted the event for the second year at the memorial. Guest speakers included John M. Molino, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for equal opportunity; Marilee Fitzgerald, deputy director of advisory services for Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service; and Army Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones.

He said even though the military wasn't ready to accept women pilots in its ranks, the Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, was formed in August 1943. More than 25,000 women applied to fly with the WASPs, but only 1,830 were accepted and only 1,074 earned their pilot wings.

"Almost all of the women were white," Abell noted. He explained that Jacqueline Cochran and Nancy Harkness Love, leaders of the WASPs, "didn't want to confront the issues of sex and race when attempting to convince military leaders of women's ability to fly."

Thirty-eight WASPs lost their lives in airplane crashes while flying everything from fighters to bombers as they ferried aircraft, towed targets for anti-aircraft gunnery training, flew weather-tracking flights and conducted simulated bombing missions, the deputy undersecretary said.

"Since they were civilian employees, these women were denied military honors at their burials and the surviving WASPs often had to pass the hat around to pay for funeral expenses," Abell said.

He said the WASPs began to campaign for recognition in the mid-1970s after the Air Force announced its plans to train its "first women military pilots."

"Finally, in 1977, Congress passed a law declaring the WASPs to be veterans of World War II," he noted. "In 1984, the Air Force awarded the Victory Medal to each woman and the American Theater Medal to those who had served for more than one year.

"Funeral honors policy has also been changed, and now permits WASPs to receive military funeral honors," Abell said.

Today, women are playing a much more significant role in military aviation, he noted. "For example, there are more than 700 women qualified as helicopter pilots," Abell said. "Almost 520 women are currently serving on active duty as fixed-wing pilots, including more than 120 women who are fighter and bomber pilots."

Fitzgerald told the audience that women have come a long way since former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed Frances Perkins as secretary of labor, which made her the nation's first female cabinet secretary. She then pointed out that President Bush has appointed women to five Cabinet-level positions.

"These talented women join 24 others in our nation's history who have held Cabinet or Cabinet-level appointments in the executive and legislative branches," Fitzgerald noted. She also noted that the judiciary branch seats two women on the Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg.

Nearly 2 million women serve in an array of federal positions across the nation, she said. They are teachers, firefighters, human resource specialists, sky marshals, Secret Service agents, air traffic controllers, tugboat captains, scientists, engineers, prison guards, weapons system designers, and secretaries of agriculture, labor, interior.

"The hope and future of women in federal civilian service is evidenced every day by the contributions of nearly 250,000 women employed by DoD," Fitzgerald said. "Together, with an active duty force of more than 200,000 women, I'm proud to say that DoD is the nation's largest employer of women."

Jones started her remarks by asking the audience to say a special prayer for all the service men and women and civilian contractors overseas who are in harm's way or, are going into harm's way. "And for their families, who are struggling with the unknown," the sergeant major said.

Jones said Women's History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements, remember the hardships and motivate for the future. "It's a time to reflect on the contributions made by women and reinforce that women are an integral part of history. Most importantly, it's a time to rededicate ourselves to continue to achieve the things necessary to mold our nation, our lives, the lives that touched us and the lives that we touched."

Asking the audience to think about the women who touched their lives, Jones said, "Every person in here can think of at least one woman who have had a profound positive impact on your life. It may be our mothers, wives, sisters, aunts or a neighbor.

"There's no greater influence in the world than the influence of a woman," Jones said. "They may not be celebrated across the nation, but they're celebrated in our hearts, in our actions and in our deeds. And in the way we conduct ourselves as professionals and as leaders — and the way we hold our folk, eat our food, stand up straight and our study habits."

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Department of Defense stresses troop support mail

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense (DoD) suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection concerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemembers and unit addresses. These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs. To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended:

* Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual Thank You cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html

<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

DoD hosts Women's History Month observance at Women's Memorial continued

Women of the past have afforded today's women a chance to do what they feel they must do, not based on gender or anything other than a need or desire, she noted.

Noting that the future lies in the younger generation, Jones emphasized that it isn't about gender, "it's about performing what we must do as individuals, citizens and soldiers. It's not necessarily about being a women, it's about performing a mission and a responsibility based on what we have to do."

Master Sgt. Artri Sherrod of the Air National Guard sang the National Anthem. The invocation and benediction was given by Army Reserve Chaplain (Col.) Geraldine Manning. The colors were presented by a joint color guard from the Military District of Washington.

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>

* Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to servicemembers overseas.

Poland admits Iraq combat role after news photos continued

GROM is an SAS-style commando unit which has seen recent action in Afghanistan. It is one of the few highly trained units in Poland's armed forces, which are mostly underfunded and still rely on outdated Soviet-era equipment.

Poland, a NATO member whose government has supported the tough U.S. line against Baghdad, sent 200 troops to the Gulf in what they originally said was a supporting, non-combat, role.

The Reuters photographs showed masked GROM soldiers taking prisoners, scrawling graffiti on a portrait of Saddam and posing with U.S. Navy Seals holding up a U.S. flag.

"These photos shouldn't have happened," said Szmajdzinski. "The next time it will definitely be with the Polish flag."

Surveys show that most people in this east European country



Vehicles drive towards a cloud of black smoke in Baghdad, Monday March 24, 2003. Oil fires ring the city as a defense against incoming U.S. missiles and bombs. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

Go Ordnance!!!

Ordnance school assists New Century students

by Spec. Evan Morrow, Redstone Rocket Staff Writer

The audio enhanced animation was good by any standards even though it lasted only 30 seconds. What was even more impressive was the amount of work that went into tailoring the presentation and the dedication of the individuals that did it.

Students from New Century High School under the tutelage of Capt. Richard Langsmith spent eight weeks learning the equipment and constructing the final project. Their animation would compete against animations from five other area high schools in the annual FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition. Another New Century high school team was constructing a robot that would compete in a separate part of the competition against other robots in a "capture the flag" type scenario.

Langsmith, who has several years experience with animation techniques and software, learned of the competition through his dialogue with Virginia College instructor Rick Johnson.

"Rick asked me if I could sponsor a group for the competition, and he informed me that New Century High School's team did not have a sponsor," Langsmith said. "I got Col. (David) Hafele to give his blessing for the project and after that the kids had a sponsor and the equipment they needed."

New Century High School is unique because it does not have sports. Students can take technology electives instead, and the spirit of competition and teamwork so often emphasized in team sports is instead achieved through technology and computer contests.

"This background helped lay the groundwork for the kids to meet the challenges inherent in the task they were about to undertake," Langsmith said. "It took them two weeks to master the basics before

they could put their imaginations into the software because it is a very complex and even difficult software package.

"After teaching them basic knowledge, I had them specialize in a particular facet of the animation project — character construction, special effects, audio, lighting, design etc. When different areas overlapped, teamwork became a very important factor. The files had to be passed from one student to another so the new features could be added. "They are typical teenagers and I anticipated some minor difficulty in keeping them focused.

I thought they might be bouncing off the walls. I was pleasantly surprised by their behavior. They were attentive learners and had no problem respecting the equipment and following the rules of a military installation," Langsmith said.

After the demonstration, 59th Ordnance Brigade commander Hafele spoke on the ties between military research and development and commercial technology. He specifically highlighted some of the ways this technology could be used in the Training and Doctrine Command classroom.

"If the student could view all angles of the piece of equipment they were learning how to operate and manipulate the graphic representation of that equipment using the mouse, it may be easier for them to get a feel for the equipment than it would be if all they had was a two-dimensional diagram in a training manual," Hafele said.

The robotics competition is March 27 and the regional competition for the animation is March 29, followed by the finals April 12. Youngsters' animation ready for competition

Thousands gather to back U.S. troops and policy continued

of Clear Channel. But he said those costs were being reimbursed by Bills Khakis, a clothing manufacturer whose advertisements appear on Mr. Beck's Web site.

In an e-mail message, a spokeswoman for Clear Channel, Lisa Dollinger, referred questions about the rallies to Premiere, saying only that the events were "not sponsored by Clear Channel corporate, and I have no information." A spokesman for Premiere did not answer a telephone message today.

The attorney general of Virginia, Jerry Kilgore, applauded the companies and the radio stations for their stance, saying, "Support of America during a time of war is something to be commended."

A similar demonstration was held in Chicago today, where about 3,000 people gathered in Federal Plaza to voice support for President Bush, the war and United States troops in Iraq. There, too, most waved American flags, and their chants of "U.S.A." echoed against a backdrop of country songs blaring from loudspeakers.

"We have to support the troops and make sure the world knows

there are not just antiwar protesters out there," said Andrew Burns, 36, an organizer at the Chicago event who is a member of the local chapter of the Free Republic Network, a conservative organization.

"We are here to show the troops there is a side that is supporting them," Mr. Burns said.

Richmond lies in the heart of what might be considered the country's military belt, not far from the giant naval base in Norfolk and a number of Army and Marine bases. Many of those attending today's rally said that they or close relatives had served in the military, and that they felt a particular kinship with the American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in the Persian Gulf.

But Richmond also lies in an overwhelmingly Republican and devoutly Christian part of the country, and it was apparent that politics and faith, as much as military service, were factors behind the display.

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Villagers from the town of As Samawah, Iraq, flee the village carrying a white flag, letting U.S. troops know that they are non-combatants. The U.S. Army's 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment received some resistance while taking the village. Photo by Warren Zinn, Army Times.



A conservative radio host helped to organize several of this weekend's rallies supporting the military and the war, including this one yesterday at an office park near Richmond, Va., that drew an estimated 10,000 people. AP photo.

Thousands gather to back U.S. troops and policy continued

Many cars and pickup trucks headed to the rally bore bumper stickers that expressed sentiments like this one: "God, Guns and Guts Made America — Let's Keep All of Them." The barbershop chorus, men in black blazers who call themselves the Virginians, sang tunes like "This Is Our Country."

Mr. Witt carried a placard that said, "Saddam and Bin Laden Love War Protesters." It was one sign among many offering support for President Bush and United States troops and denouncing celebrities who have taken antiwar positions.

Anthony Nardella, 49, a retired Navy commander who served in the Persian Gulf war, said he regarded the event as "a counterdemonstration against all the antiwar glitz." He added, "I'm pretty sure you're not going to see people here looting stores or lying down in the streets."

Angie Hutchison, 30, was at the rally with her husband, her parents and her 3-year-old son, Tyler. Ms. Hutchison said that she and her family were offering prayers for an enlisted marine who shares her son's first name and is serving in the war.

"Peter Jennings calls us the pro-war movement, but we're not pro-war," Ms. Hutchison said, referring to the ABC television anchor. "We're pro-military, and war is the last resort. But if it's a just war, then we shall set them free."



Chuck Skeen, 40 from Lampas, Texas, a civilian contractor from Northrop Grumman installs a Blue Force Tracker system in an M998 HMMWV Humvee at Camp New York in Kuwait, Sunday. The system displays the positions of friendly and reported enemy vehicles all over the battlefield and allows data communication between vehicles and command centers. Photo by Rob Curtis, Army Times.

In this image from video, a U.S. Marine fires a Javelin missile, a portable shoulder-launched anti-tank weapon, at a building near Umm Qasr, Iraq, during a battle with Iraqi forces Sunday, March 23, 2003. (AP Photo/Pool via APTN)

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